
By: **Delegate Clagett**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Trailers and Semitrailers - Surge Brakes**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a trailer or a semitrailer to be equipped with surge
4 brakes if the trailer or semitrailer operates solely intrastate and has less than a
5 certain combined gross weight rating; defining a certain term; and generally
6 relating to surge brakes on trailers and semitrailers.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article - Transportation
9 Section 11-158 and 11-169
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

12 BY adding to
13 Article - Transportation
14 Section 22-301(l)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - Transportation**

20 11-158.

21 (a) "Semitrailer" means, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a
22 vehicle that:

23 (1) Has no motive power;

24 (2) Is designed to carry people or property and to be towed by a motor
25 vehicle; and

1 (3) Is constructed so that some of its weight and load rests on or is
2 carried by another vehicle.

3 (b) "Semitrailer" does not include a pole trailer.

4 11-169.

5 (a) "Trailer" means, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a
6 vehicle that:

7 (1) Has no motive power;

8 (2) Is designed to carry people or property and to be towed by a motor
9 vehicle; and

10 (3) Is constructed so that no part of its weight rests on the towing
11 vehicle.

12 (b) "Trailer" does not include a pole trailer.

13 22-301.

14 (L) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "SURGE BRAKES" MEANS A BRAKING SYSTEM
15 DESIGNED TO ACTIVATE THE BRAKES OF A VEHICLE BEING TOWED AS A RESULT OF
16 THE FORWARD PRESSURE OF THE VEHICLE AGAINST THE TOWING VEHICLE DURING
17 DECELERATION.

18 (2) A TRAILER OR A SEMITRAILER MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH SURGE
19 BRAKES IF:

20 (I) THE TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER OPERATES SOLELY
21 INTRASTATE; AND

22 (II) THE TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER HAS A GROSS COMBINATION
23 WEIGHT RATING OF LESS THAN 10,001 POUNDS.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2001.